

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2016, AT THE OFFICES OF THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, 388 MAIN SOUTH ROAD, GREYMOUTH, COMMENCING AT 11.39 A.M.

PRESENT:

A. Robb (Chairman), P. Ewen, P. McDonnell, A. Birchfield, N. Clementson, T. Archer, S. Challenger

IN ATTENDANCE:

M. Meehan (Chief Executive Officer) G. McCormack (Consents & Compliance Manager), R. Mallinson (Corporate Services Manager), R. Beal (Operations Manager), N. Costley (Communications Manager), T. Jellyman (Minutes Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES:

There were no apologies.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

3.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved (Clementson / Ewen) *that the minutes of the Council Meeting dated 12 July 2016, be confirmed as correct.*

Carried

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

REPORTS:

4.1 ENGINEERING OPERATIONS REPORT

The Chairman welcomed R. Beal to his first meeting. R. Beal advised that tenders for the works in the Franz Josef rating district would be opened today. He stated that following the two day workshop in Franz Josef on 27 and 28 July, all experts present were in agreement that the Waiho River will continue to aggrade and the continued raising of the rock walls is unsustainable. R. Beal advised that annual inspections of Council's rating districts will be completed prior to the annual meetings in November.

R. Beal requested that following consultation with the Chief Executive, the recommendation in this report that Council holds a special meeting on 30 August for the purpose of making decisions relating to Neils Beach and Punakaiki matters, be removed.

Cr Archer asked for clarification as to whether the items included in this report would remain on the report until they are either completed or until Council decides they need to be removed. Cr Archer asked if Carters Beach should be included in the report. M. Meehan advised that staff have been on site at Carters Beach and the threat to private property is minimal, from the erosion line to private property the distance is 100 metres or more. Cr Archer spoke of a meeting he attended with Buller District Council some time ago regarding Carters Beach but Buller District Council was not in a position to do anything about this and the matter has now languished. M. Meehan advised that he has not received phone calls about this matter and it does not seem to be a pressing issue. He stated that in the past there has been concern around the domain area and the domain board were dealing with this. Cr Archer stated that he would make some enquiries and come back to M. Meehan if he has concerns.

Cr McDonnell asked if there had been an approach from Westland District Council with regard to extending the Hokitika Seawall as this had been mentioned recently in the Hokitika Guardian. M. Meehan stated that there has not heard anything about this but this could come up at the annual meeting in November. M. Meehan advised that he is going to be working on a natural hazards strategy for the region, working in with the district councils. He stated that quite often there is confusion over roles in this area. The Chairman agreed and stated that quite often there is duplication. M. Meehan and R. Beal answered various questions from Councillors.

Moved (Clementson / Birchfield) *that this report is received.*

Carried

4.1.1 GRAVEL EXTRACTION COMPLIANCE MONITORING CHARGE

G. McCormack spoke to this report advising that this report was brought to last month's meeting and he has now added additional information to this report. G. McCormack stated that \$90,000 was needed to be raised from the gravel extraction compliance monitoring charge that was previously set out in the 2015 / 25 Long Term Plan. G. McCormack advised that close to \$300,000 would have been raised if the charges previously agreed were put in place. G. McCormack advised that the new figures are still over \$90,000 as he is expecting quite a few gravel consents to be surrendered as some companies have merged and no longer need the consents. He stated that the figure is then likely to be closer to \$100,000 but this can be reviewed again next year. Cr Archer stated that this is a very good outcome.

Moved (Archer / Clementson)

That Council reduce the gravel consent monitoring charge established in the Long Term Plan as follows;

Cubic volume	Current charge	Proposed charge
< 2,000 m3	\$300	\$150
2,000 – 3,999 m3	\$600	\$300
4,000 – 7,999 m3	\$1,200	\$500
8,000 – 15,000 m3	\$2,200	\$750
> 15,000 m3	\$3,000	\$1,000

Carried

(LATE ITEM)

RESOURCE CONSENT ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION CHARGE

G. McCormack spoke to this report and advised that this charge was part of the Long Term Plan with the charges seeking to raise \$110,000 which was based on 2000 consent files. He advised this number of files was incorrect as it was close to 4000. G. McCormack advised that around 400 consents have since been surrendered. He advised that at the time of writing this report the number of consents was around 3,600 which were generating revenue of close to \$200,000. G. McCormack is now suggesting the consents for domestic septic tanks are removed from this year's charge. He explained in detail how this would work and advised that a further review could be done next year if required. Discussion took place and it was agreed that it is important that consent holders engage and take some responsibility with consents that they hold. M. Meehan commented that there have been some positives come out of this as some property owners that didn't transfer the septic tank consent over to the new owner have complained as this should have been dealt with as part of the property sale. M. Meehan stated that this process has cleared a lot of consents that were no longer required.

MOVED (Archer / Ewen)

That Council waive the annual resource consent file administration charge for holders of resource consent files relating to domestic septic tanks, from 2016 / 17 onwards.

Carried

4.1.2 REGIONAL TRANSPORT UPDATE

N. Costley spoke to this report. She stated that tourism is now having a greater emphasis on transport with linkages to economic development. N. Costley stated that the Regional Economic Development Manager has now been seconded onto the Regional Transport Committee. N. Costley reported that there are five new passing opportunities to be constructed this coming summer and will all be completed by June 2018. She advised that the construction of the Ahaura Bridge is being brought forward. N. Costley reported that construction is well advanced on the Mingha Bluff to Rough Creek project. N. Costley stated that the Local Government Commission work looking at transport efficiencies is progressing well. N. Costley answered various questions from Councillors.

MOVED (Ewen / Challenger) *That Council receives this report.*

Carried

4.2 CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

R. Mallinson spoke to his report and stated that this is the financial report for the twelve months to the end of June. He stated that the situation improved during June. He advised that the deficit for the twelve month period is \$454,000. R. Mallinson reported that the Westpac portfolio declined in value by \$125,000 during June but these losses were recouped in July and the portfolio has now bounced back in excess of \$225,000, making up the June losses in July. R. Mallinson stated that he is now working on the Annual Report. He stated that the first financial report to Council for 2016 / 17 will be for the two months to the 31st of August. R. Mallinson answered various questions from Councillors.

October Council Meeting

Discussion took place on the date for the October Council meeting. It was noted that Local Body Elections will be held on 8 October, and the date of 11 October had been previously set for the October Council meeting. Discussion took place and it was agreed that October meeting would be held on 4 October.

Moved (Clementson / Challenger)

1. *That this report be received.*
2. *That the October Council meeting is held on 4 October 2016.*

Carried

4.2.1 SETTING OF RATES FOR 2016 / 17

R. Mallinson spoke to this report. He explained various aspects of his report relating to the Punakaiki rating district to the meeting. He stated that the maintenance rate of \$95,000 + GST does need to continue with the existing classification system for 2016 / 17 as the community is working through how the new capital works can be funded. R. Mallinson advised that there is an overdraft of over \$100,000 in the Punakaiki maintenance rating district account as at the end of June 2016. R. Mallinson explained how Council can set a rate outside the annual plan process. He stated that this could be used to fund the new capital works but he feels it would not be appropriate to reset the maintenance rate using this provision. M. Meehan advised that if the community proceed with the norther extension to the Punakaiki seawall then they will be maintaining a bigger structure. Cr Archer stated that the existing seawall is still going to need to be maintained, and if the outcome of the decision that is currently being consulted may change things. Cr Archer stated that an extension to the current seawall is unlikely to need a lot of additional maintenance work after it has just been built.

Moved (Archer / Challenger)

That Council adopt the attached proposed rates strike and penalty setting resolutions numbered:

1. *Setting of various rates as per 1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p), (q), (r), (s), (t), (u), (v), (w), (x), (y), (z), (aa), (bb), (cc), (dd), (ee).*
2. *Adopting due dates for payment.*

4.2.1 TWELVE MONTH REVIEW – 1 JULY 2015 – 30 JUNE 2016

M. Meehan spoke to this report. He stated that some of the highlights of the work completed this year are the new flood warning sites and the new low flow gauging equipment in the Mawheraiti River. M. Meehan stated that he feels it has been a good year. It was noted that some targets that were not achieved were very close to being achieved. Cr Archer stated that this is a very good report. M. Meehan answered questions from Councillors.

Moved (Archer / Challenger) *that this report is received.*

Carried

5.0 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman spoke to his report. He stated that a report is now awaited on the work that has been carried out by the Governance Group. The Chairman advised that the big opportunities for the West Coast are in the tourism area. He stated that the Economic Development Manager is doing a lot of work in this area.

The Chairman stated that Council received a highly commended award for work in the Lake Brunner catchment at the recent Local Government Excellence Awards which was part of the Local Government Conference. The Chairman reported that one of the main remits at the annual meeting, which was part of the conference, was the submission to the Government above the Local Government Amendment Act. The Chairman stated that the Prime Minister also spoke at the conference.

The Chairman advised that a report is imminent from the Local Government Commission regarding the work that they have done in the region recently.

Moved (Robb / Archer) *that this report is received.*

Carried

6.0 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

M. Meehan spoke to his report and advised that the meeting with staff from MfE on 7 July had a large focus on the national policy statement for freshwater management. He stated that swim ability is now becoming a big issue around the country and the state of waterways in our region was discussed. M. Meehan stated that stock access to water was discussed at this meeting. He stated some follow up work on this is required before a new rule is put into the national policy statement.

M. Meehan reported that his recent meeting with the South Island Chief Executive's was very good with general alignment on quite a few matters. He stated that there is a lot of collaboration around the South Island with the roading network.

M. Meehan reported that the visit by the Deputy CEO from MBIE and his staff was a good opportunity to talk about matters involving New Zealand Petroleum Minerals and Gas and the potential alignment with projects.

M. Meehan stated that Jason Krupp from the New Zealand Initiative gave a presentation on local government in Switzerland and Manchester at the Local Government Conference. M. Meehan advised that he has invited Mr Krupp to visit the West Coast in a few weeks' time. M. Meehan advised that the New Zealand Initiative is funded by around 40 of New Zealand's biggest businesses and they will fund the visit.

M. Meehan reported that the recent workshop held in Franz Josef was very good. He stated that the next step is to present the findings of this to the community, in layman's terms as this is a very complex situation which will require central and local government and the community to work together. M. Meehan advised that New Zealand Petroleum Minerals and Gas are increasing their fees for permits; he stated that he will be writing to them to express his concerns on this, including the timeframes for permits.

Moved (Ewen / Archer) *that this report is received.*

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

There was no general business.

The meeting closed at 12.47 p.m.

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Chairman

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Date